

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 294355

14
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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 294355

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF DEPUTY U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
WHITE CONGRATULATING CHILE ON PRISONER RELEASE

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CHAIRMAN: TODAY'S MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL PROVIDES THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES FORUM TO SPEAK OF THE RECENT ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO RELEASE A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE POLITICAL PRISONERS DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE UNDER ITS STATE OF SIEGE. THIS POSITIVE STEP IS IN ACCORD WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE VI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AT SANTIAGO WHERE ALL MEMBER STATES EXPRESSED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR HEMISPHERE- LET US HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE'S DECISION WILL SET AN EXAMPLE TO ALL GOVERNMENTS. MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE IF THIS CORROSIVE ISSUE IS TO BE REMOVED FROM REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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PAGE 02 STATE 294355

CAN CONTRIBUTE SO SIGNALLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND

MAINTENANCE OF HIGH STANDARDS OF RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY
OF PERSONS IN OUR HEMISPHERE.

AT THE SAME TIME, I DO NOT WANT MY REMARKS ON THIS
POSITIVE AND HOPEFUL ACTION TO UNDERSTATE MY GOVERNMENT'S
CONTINUING CONCERN WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
CHILE.

WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT THE UNIVERSAL AND INTER-
AMERICAN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS APPLY TO ALL COUNTRIES
EQUALLY AND WE CONTINUE TO HOLD THAT BELIEF.

END TEXT. KISSINGER

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TEXT
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